

ABSTRACT

A method for detecting contaminating microbes possibly present in a blood product including blood cells including a) subjecting a sample of the blood product to an aggregation treatment of the blood cells, b) substantially eliminating aggregates formed in step (a) by passage of the sample over a first filter allowing passage of contaminating microbes, but not cell aggregates, c) selectively lysing residual cells of the filtrate obtained in step (b), d) recovering the contaminating microbes by passage of the lysate from step (c) over a second filter allowing passage of cellular debris, e) adding a marker agent of the contaminating microbes either during step (a) or step (c), and f) analyzing material on the second filter to detect labeled contaminating microbes possibly retained by the second filter; and a device for concentrating contaminating microbes possibly present in a blood product including blood cells including a first watertight, sterile tank containing at least one blood cell aggregation agent and, optionally, at least one agent for labeling pathogenic microbes, a second watertight, sterile tank containing at least one lysis agent for blood cells and, optionally, at least one agent for labeling pathogenic microbes, a first filter located between the first and second tanks and capable of retaining aggregates formed in said first tank, a second filter located downstream of the second tank and capable of retaining possible contaminating pathogenic microbes, and a watertight, sterile connector placed between the first tank and the first filter, between the first filter and the second tank, and between the second tank and the second filter.